

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENING 00897 161220Z

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /016 W
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R 161200Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1320

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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EO 11652N/A

TAGS: OEXC UR

SUBJ: VISIT OF POET REED WITTEMORE TO LENINGRAD

REF: LENINGRAD 0871

1. DURING VISIT BY STAG DENNIS SMITH TO LENINGRAD UNION OF WRITERS (CF REFTTEL), UNION FOREIGN AFFAIRS HEAD YEVGENIY NEVYAKIN TOLD BPAO OF AN ARTICLE ALLEGEDLY APPEARING IN DECEMBER 14, 1974 EDITION OF THE NATION IN WHICH WITTEMORE SPEAKS DEROGATIVELY OF HIS VISIT TO LENINGRAD, STATING THAT HE QUOTE MADE NOT ONE FRIEND THERE, UNQUOTE. INFORMATION OBVIOUSLY CAME FROM SOURCES OUTSIDE LOCAL UNION, NONE OF WHOM TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HAVE ANY ACCESS TO THIS MAGAZINE.

2. WITTEMORE WAS FIRST AMERICAN POET PROGRAMMED AT UNION BY CONGEN AND SINCE HIS VISIT OTHERS HAVE FOLLOWED. HE WAS HOSTED IN LENINGRAD BY UNION SECRETARY AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF AURORA VLADIMIR TOROPIGIN, WITH WHOM A WARM CORRESPONDENCE SUBSEQUENTLY ENSURED. AURORA WILL, IN FACT, SOON PUBLISH SEVERAL WITTEMORE POEMS IN TRANSLATION.

3. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, POST WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO REFUTE NEVYAKIN'S ALLEGATION AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY AMMUNITION DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE.

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NEUBERT

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: ShawDG
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